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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/879,419	06/12/2001	Bill J. Coe	7282.4820	6102

22235 7590 02/25/2004

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EXAMINER

DINH, TIEN QUANG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3644

DATE MAILED: 02/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/879,419

Applicant(s)

COE, BILL J.

Examiner

Tien Dinh

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on 3/26/03 have been disapproved because they introduce new matter into the drawings. 37 CFR 1.121(f) states that no amendment may introduce new matter into the disclosure of an application. The original disclosure does not support the showing of elements 100, 102, 110, and 120.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In the independent claims, “the continuous loop” lacks antecedent basis. Is the “continuous loop” the “continuous loop attachment area?” If so, please be consistent with the terms used.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calthrop in view of Peterson et al.

Calthrop discloses a parachute having a group of parachute suspension lines and a second member that is a riser both with openings that are attached together by a member but a is silent on the soft link to tie the first and second members together. However, Peterson et al discloses a soft link, one-piece structure 10 with a permanently looped first end 12 (see figure 3) and second looped end 11 having a tab/lump 13. The soft link is made out of rope/high strength material. The first and second end member can be removably attached to each other to define a single continuous loop attachment area so that a first and second member can be connected. When the first and second member are connected to the attachment point of the first and second end of the body member, first and second member can be cinched because they are tightly attached to each other. Thus, Peterson et al teaches that soft links that can be used to tie the parachute suspension lines to the riser through the openings are well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used Peterson et al's soft links in place of Calthrop linking means for easy manufacturing and for saving weight.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Booth in view of Snyder '789 and Peterson et al.

Booth discloses a pilot parachute having a bridle cord 15 and a second member that is a canopy 16 but is silent on the canopy and bridle lines having openings and the soft link to tie the bridle cord and canopy together. However, Peterson et al discloses a soft link, one-piece

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structure 10 with a permanently looped first end 12 (see figure 3) and second looped end 11 having a tab/lump 13. The soft link is made out of rope/high strength material. The first and second end member can be removably attached to each other to define a single continuous loop attachment area so that a first and second member can be connected. When the first and second member are connected to the attachment point of the first and second end of the body member, first and second member can be cinched because they are tightly attached to each other. Thus, Peterson et al teaches that soft links that can be used to tie the canopy and the bridle through the openings are well known in the art. Furthermore, Snyder '789 teaches canopy and bridle lines having openings are well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the canopy and bridle lines have openings (as taught by Snyder) and Peterson et al's soft links in Booth's system to easily attach the canopy to the bridle lines and to easily repair the system if needed.

Claims 15, 16, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Calthrop as modified by Peterson et al as applied to claims 10 and 17 above, and further in view of Dennington.

Calthrop as modified by Peterson et al discloses all parts except for the soft link being made out of nylon. However, Dennington discloses that soft links made out of nylon are well known in the art.

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It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the soft link of Peterson et al out nylon as taught by Dennington to create a stronger structure.

Re claims 16, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used bartack thread in Calthrop's system as modified by Peterson et al to create a stronger structure. Further, the criticality of using bartack thread has not been disclosed.

Re claim 21, please note it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have used labels in Calthrop's system as modified by Peterson et al to provide instructions or advertise the brand.

Response to Arguments

The Examiner maintains that figures 14-17 constitute new matter since the configurations as shown were not originally disclosed. Elements shown in figures 14-17 are shown but were not originally disclosed. What is the circular element shown in figures 16 and 17 next to element 110?

The Examiner has used the Peterson et al reference in combination with other previously disclosed prior arts in the rejections. Therefore, claims 1-6, 10, 11, and 17 are rejected with Calthrop in view of Peterson et al. As for the arguments that Peterson et al and Calthrop do not disclose a single continuous loop through the first and second member, the Examiner disagrees. When Peterson et al's soft link is looped through the first and second member of Calthrop (which is necessary for a safe connection), there is a single continuous loop be created. Please note that

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Peterson et al's soft link is capable of being used to tightly tie two parts of Calthrop's parachute systems. This meets what has been claimed.

As for the Booth reference, please note that the Examiner used this reference to show that a pilot chute/canopy and bridle cords are well known in the art. Snyder '789 is used to show that a canopy and bridle lines having openings are well known in the art. Therefore, it is obvious to one skilled in the art to have used a soft link as taught by Peterson et al to connect parts together and to easily repair the system. There is prime motivation to combine the references.

Dennington is used to show nylons are commonly used by one skilled in the art.

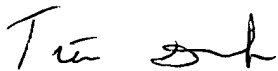
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tien Dinh whose telephone number is 703-308-2798. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Jordan can be reached on 703-306-4159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Smith".